

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN

FOLTEL REPTD FOR YOUR INFO

SENT ACTION PARIS BRUSSELS FM SECSTATE NOV 02

QTE

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PARIS FOR HARTMAN

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ATHENS BONN BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN

LONDON ROME SECDEF WASHDC LISBON USNMR SHAPE USDOCOSOUTH

FROM USNATO OCT 30

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USNATO 6039

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC, PO

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ON NPG POSTPONEMENT

REF: USNATO 5948 (NOTAL)

1. PRIOR TO NAC MEETING OCTOBER 30, NATO CHEF DU CABINET (VAN CAMPEN) BROUGHT TO CHARGE'S ATTENTION FOLLOWING ARTICLE ON POSTPONE-

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MENT OF NPG ROME MEETING WHICH PUBLISHED BY FRANKFURTER ALL-

GEMEINE OCTOBER 30, DATELINED BONN:

2. BEGIN TEXT: (INFORMAL MISSION TRANSLATION)

PORTUGAL'S REQUEST TO TAKE PART IN THE WORK OF NUCLEAR TARGETING PLANNING HAS BROUGHT ABOUT PERPLEXITY IN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND HAS CAUSED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE THE MEETING OF THE NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP PLANNED FOR NOVEMBER 7 AND 8 IN ROME TO BE POSTPONED TO AN INDEFINITE TIME. UNTIL NOW PORTUGAL HAD NEVER PRESSED TO WORK IN THIS BODY. THIS BODY HAS THE TASK OF PLANNING THE STRATEGIC COMPONENT OF THE ATLANTIC STRATEGY OF DETERRENCE--THAT IS, THE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE IN THE EVENT OF A WAR BREAKING OUT. AFTER THE FALL OF CAETANO A TOUGHER POSITION IN REGARD TO THE ALLIANCE DEVELOPED IN LISBON.

IN ANY CASE IT IS BEING ASKED IN NATO CIRCLES HOW THIS NEWLY AWAKENED INTEREST IS TO BE INTERPRETED. PESSIMISTS BELIEVE THAT PORTUGAL IS DEMANDING PARTICIPATION IN NATO-PLANNING ONLY BECAUSE THIS GIVES THE COMMUNISTS IN LISBON THE POSSIBILITY OF TAKING A PEEK AT THE SECRET FOUNDATIONS OF THE WESTERN DEFENSE PACT. THE SUPPOSITION CANNOT BE DISMISSED, THEY SAY, THAT THIS KNOWLEDGE WOULD BE PASSED ON TO THE SOVIET UNION. IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY, LIKE OTHER OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES IN THE WEST, HAS CLOSE RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW.

IN VIEW OF PRESSURE FROM LISBON TO TAKE PART IN THE NPG MEETING IN ROME, THE NATO PARTNERS HAD NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT BY PUTTING OFF THE MEETING. WITH THAT THE UNITED STATES, WHOSE NUCLEAR PLANNING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT, GAINED TIME FOR NEW DELIBERATIONS. IT IS EXPECTED IN BRUSSELS THAT AT LEAST BY THE TIME OF THE WINTER MEETING OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE THERE WILL BE AN AGREEMENT ON HOW NUCLEAR TARGETING PLANNING WILL IN FUTURE BE HANDLED WITH REGARD TO GOVERNMENTS HAVING COMMUNIST MINISTERS. THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETS IN BRUSSELS DECEMBER 10 AND 11, BEFORE THE MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL. ALL DEFENSE MINISTERS OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE EXCEPT FRANCE BELONG TO THE DPC. UNTIL NOW NO PROPOSITION HAS APPEARED IN BRUSSELS WHICH COULD MUSTER THE ASSENT OF ALL MEMBER NATIONS. END TEXT.

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3. VAN CAMPEN ASKED WHAT REPLY INTERNATIONAL STAFF SHOULD MAKE IF ASKED ABOUT ARTICLE. MCAULIFFE SAID U.S. AND NATO SHOULD CONTINUE TO ADHERE STRICTLY TO LANGUAGE GIVEN NATO SPOKESMAN (REFTEL) AND NOT GO BEYOND IT.

4. WE TRUST DEPARTMENT AND BONN WILL DO THE SAME. FOR NPG CAPITALS WHICH DID NOT RECEIVE REFTEL: TEXT FOLLOWS OF GUIDANCE

AUTHORIZED NATO SPOKESMAN BY NPG PERMREPS LESS PORTUGAL,
TO BE USED ON IF-ASKED BASIS.

5. BEGIN TEXT:

THE NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP (NPG) NORMALLY MEETS AT MINISTERIAL
LEVEL IN THE FALL AND SPRING OF EACH YEAR. THIS YEAR THE FALL
MEETING WAS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN ROME, NOVEMBER 7-8.
THE PRESS OF CURRENT BUSINESS IN A NUMBER OF ALLIED CAPITALS HAS
LED MINISTERS TO CONCLUDE THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO DEFER THEIR
DISCUSSIONS ON CURRENT ISSUES UNTIL THEY WILL BE IN BRUSSELS
FOR NATO MINISTERIAL MEETINGS IN DECEMBER. END TEXT.

6. ADDRESSEES MAY ALSO HAVE NOTED ASSOCIATED PRESS STORY ON
SAME SUBJECT, DATED IN BRUSSELS, QUOTED BELOW FOR YOUR
INFORMATION.

7. BEGIN TEXT:

U.S. DEFENSE SECRETARY JAMES SCHLESINGER AND SEVEN ALLIED
DEFENSE MINISTERS HAVE CALLED OFF A TWO-DAY MEETING OF THEIR
NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP, AN INFORMED SOURCE SAID TUESDAY. THEY
HAD BEEN DUE TO GATHER IN ROME NOVEMBER 7 AND 8. THE SOURCE GAVE
PRESSURE OF WORK AS THE REASON FOR THE POSTPONEMENT. THE
MINISTERS WILL SEE EACH OTHER IN ANY CASE A MONTH LATER AT A MEETING
IN BRUSSELS OF THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE-DPC-OF THE NORTH
ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION. THE DPC MEETING IN DECEMBER WILL
LAST TWO DAYS THIS YEAR INSTEAD OF THE USUAL ONE DAY. THE NPG
IS ENGAGED IN DRAWING UP GUIDELINES FOR THE TACTICAL USE OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE. THEY HAVE ALREADY WORKED UP AN OUT-
LINE OF THE SITUATIONS UNDER WHICH THE UNITED STATES OR ONE OF
THE ALLIES MIGHT BE THE FIRST TO USE A NUCLEAR WEAPON
TACTICALLY. THEY ARE NOW DEALING WITH WHAT WOULD HAPPEN AFTER
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A RESPONSE FROM THE SOVIET UNION-WHAT IS CALLED "FOLLOW ON" USE.
END TEXT.

8. FYI, NATO SPOKESMAN, ASKED ABOUT NPG MEETING BY AP CORRES-
PONDENT IN BRUSSELS OCTOBER 29, USED LANGUAGE IN PARAGRAPH 5. THIS
IS DOUBTLESS SOURCE OF NEWS STORIES QUOTED ABOVE.
MCAULIFF UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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